

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF YOUR SCRAP DISPLAY BACKGROUNDS

The first in a series of poster backgrounds

The three background panels shown here are the first of a series which will be printed by the Department from time to time. The center panel will be 20x28 inches, and the side panels 14½x20 inches each, printed on strong paper in two or more colors. State War Boards will receive the printed display panels about the end of July, in quantities allowing five sets per county. Suggestions for mounting backgrounds and preparing exhibits follow:

In most cases, exhibits will be more attractive if the background posters are mounted in some way on free-standing panels, instead of just fastened to a flat wall. Pieces of wallboard or plywood cut to the size of the posters make good panels, and "easel backs" can be easily devised by attaching a flat stick of wood to the back with a hinge of cloth or leather. (Glue can be used.). The simplest method of attaching the posters to the panels is to thumbtack them at the corners and at neatly spaced intervals along the edges. The best and most permanent job can be done by pasting. Before applying paste, dampen the back of the posters with a moist sponge or rag. Be sure to paste a sheet of stout wrapping paper on the back of the panel immediately after mounting the poster, to prevent warping of the panel, as the poster in drying will buckle even the stiffest panel.

A certain amount of time and effort will be necessary to prepare the panels, to get supplementary signs lettered giving local figures (when desired), to arrange with stores for borrowing windows, to collect the exhibit materials, and to install the exhibits. However, the results should be gratifying. People will look at the windows, get the message, and in many cases, act. An effort should be made to arrange for use of windows at intervals of a few weeks, in anticipation of future backgrounds. Some exhibits will be much more easily placed in a grocery store, because the store will be able to lend various foods to incorporate in the exhibit. The Scrap exhibit could be placed in any store which has a suitable window.

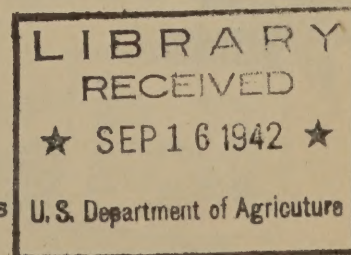
The supplementary sign might read something like this: "_____ COUNTY HAS ALREADY COLLECTED AND SHIPPED _____ POUNDS OF SCRAP METAL, ENOUGH TO MAKE _____. FINE. BUT THE WAR ISN'T WON YET. CHECK YOUR HOUSE, BARN, AND YARD AGAIN."

State War boards have received a supply of little signs about post card size which say, "ANY QUESTIONS? SEE YOUR USDA WAR BOARD." These are intended to be placed in the window exhibits, near the front where they can be well seen. They are to be distributed with the background posters. Enough have been printed to supply several series of exhibits, but save them when possible for re-use.

To localize and greatly increase the effectiveness of the display, arrange pieces of scrap in front of the panels and on the scrap place labels showing the kinds of military equipment it will make. For example, put in an old flat iron and label it "Equals 2 Steel Helmets;" put in two old plow shares and label "Equals 1 Garand Rifle;" a shovel "Equals 3 Bayonets." The following figures will help in translating scrap into military equipment:

SCRAP IRON AND STEEL:

- 1 flat iron = 2 steel helmets or 30 hand grenades
- 1 electric iron = 5 37mm. anti-aircraft shells
- 1 set of 4 skid chains = 10 37mm. anti-aircraft shells
- 1 lawn mower = 6 3-inch shells

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1 kitchen sink - 25 3-inch shells
 1 10-gallon milk can - 1 100-pound aerial bomb
 7" steel beam plow - 1 .50-caliber machine gun
 1 one-horse cultivator - 1.50-caliber machine gun
 1 pair skid chains - 1 100-pound aerial bomb
 1 shovel - 3 bayonets
 1 cultivator sweep - 1 bayonet
 1 spring tooth from harrow - 3 bayonets
 1 dairy pail - 3 bayonets
 1 heavy padlock - 1 hand grenade
 1 axe head - 3 bayonets or 10 hand grenades
 2 wedges - 1 .30-caliber machine gun
 1 scythe blade - 6 hand grenades
 2 plow shares - 1 100-pound aerial bomb

Military Uses of Steel

With the help of the following table, scrap collection figures for the entire county or community can be translated into numbers of tanks, aerial bombs, etc. Scrap used in the window displays might also be weighed and the number and kinds of military uses calculated from these figures:

ITEM	STEEL USED (LBS.)	SCRAP THAT CAN BE USED (LBS.)
3-inch anti-aircraft gun	20,000	10,000
37mm. tank gun	750	375
.30 caliber machine gun	25	12.5
.50 caliber machine gun	100	50
Medium tank - 27 tons	56,000	28,000
Light tank - 15 tons	32,000	16,000
Hull - Heavy Cruiser	13,270,000 (6,635 tons)	6,635,000
35,000-ton battleship	36,000,000 (18,000 tons)	18,000,000
100-pound aerial bomb	50	25
500-pound aerial bomb	250	125
2,000-pound aerial bomb	1,000	500
75-mm. howitzer	2,060	1,030
155-mm. howitzer	8,960	4,480
3-inch shells	13.5	6.75
4-inch shells	48	24
6-inch shells	108	54
16-inch Navy shells	2,000	1,000
5-inch Navy shells	62.5	31.25
3-inch trench mortar	110	55
20-mm. aircraft cannon	111	55.5
½-ton truck (blitz buggy)	3,970	1,985
4-ton truck	18,000	9,000
Hand grenades	1.2	.54

Suggested Display using Background Posters



1880

1880